

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME IX, NO. 2

DECEMBER, 1960

WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS . . . AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Each year at this season there is a popular song that comes to mind. The words go something like this . . . "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . ." And so it is! Gaily colored lights brighten the busy streets. Friendly reindeer peer coyly down from their vantage points on lamp posts on shoppers hastening to and fro. Red-clothed Santas beckon cheerfully from store windows. It is beginning to look a lot like what a part of Christmas is — a happy time of the year — and this is good.

But leaving the bright lights behind, the weary people wend their homeward way. Suddenly their journey is halted as there bursts upon the eyes a scene that in a profounder sense really looks like Christmas. In the church yard stands the quietly illuminated Nativity Scene. Around the edge stand the animals at rest — content they have no further to go. There stands the proud father, Joseph, relief and happiness written into his very posture. What matter now that there was no room at the inn. Mary, the loving mother, kneels in joyful gratitude beside the strong and happy baby.

As the full meaning of the scene steals upon the minds and spirits of men and women, boys and girls — that "unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" — it no longer simply looks like Christmas. It feels like Christmas in our hearts. We marvel and are gladdened it is so!

At this Christmas Season we pray that Christ may be in your heart and in your living. May your Christmas be joyful and your New Year blessed by God.

W. Raymond Berry
Allen G. Saunders
W. J. Strickland

Lois D. Harry
Wilmer L. McCord
James H. Lightbourne Jr.

United Church Laymen Hold November Washington Meeting

Traditional differences and denominational rivalry went by the board as men of two Protestant denominations met in Washington in November to consider their future together in the United Church of Christ.

Washington and Baltimore area members of the Churchmen's Brotherhood of the Evangelical & Reformed Church and the Laymen's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches joined in a rally at the Mayflower Hotel. The two organizations will be merged into a single Churchmen's Fellowship when their denominations complete the process of union now going forward.

"Protestant disunity is a crippling disability in the struggle against anti-Christian forces in the world today," the Rev. Joseph H. Stein, East Orange, New Jersey, superintendent of the Middle Atlantic Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches, told the group.

The differences between the churches conceal the true nature of the Christian church and hinder the proclamation of the Gospel.

"In the uniting of two great streams of Protestantism in the United Church of Christ we recapture the pioneering spirit of our founding fathers," he said.

William E. Peterson, St. Louis, Missouri, national director of the Congregational Fellowship, emphasized that laymen and women will have greater opportunities and responsibilities under the constitution of the United Church of Christ.

"In the United Church the lay peo-

ple will come to the forefront where we will be seen and counted as to whether or not we are doing the Lord's work," he said.

The Rev. Dr. J. Kenneth Kohler, also of St. Louis, who is executive secretary of the E & R Brotherhood, urged the closest cooperation between the men of the two communions in the transition period while structures and relationships of the new organization are hammered out.

The meeting was saddened by news of the sudden death of the Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Eyster, of Frederick, Maryland, president of the Potomac Synod of the E & R Church, who was to have been a leader of the meeting.

On hand were the national board members of the two laymen's organizations who held their annual meetings here earlier in the day. Later they will meet together to discuss common projects and consider a tentative constitution for the Churchmen's Fellowship. Mr. Herman D. Cook, of the Lanett, Alabama, Congregational Christian Church, is a national board member and attended the meeting.

The United Church of Christ was formed in July 1957 by union of the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches. A constitution is now being voted upon by local Congregational Christian churches and Evangelical & Reformed regional synods. Approval by two-thirds of the E & R synods and two-thirds of the Congregational Christian churches voting is required to bring the constitution into effect.

Dorothy P. Cushing Honored At Retirement

Dorothy P. Cushing of Melrose, Mass., an executive on the national staff of the Congregational Christian churches for thirty-five years, was honored October 24 at a dinner held at Congregational House in Boston, Mass. The dinner, attended by seventy-five staff members and friends, marked her retirement as head of the denomination's Office of Recruitment. Miss Cushing organized and directed the first news bureau of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. She later enlarged her coverage to include all the national agencies of the denomination by setting up the Congregational Christian News Bureau. She directed the bureau for the next fourteen years, covering the church's national meetings throughout the country, writing for the denominational magazines and serving as the denomination's liaison with the press, radio, and television.

In 1956 she became director of the Office of Recruitment, which seeks to interest young people in church-related vocations such as religious education, the ministry and the mission field.

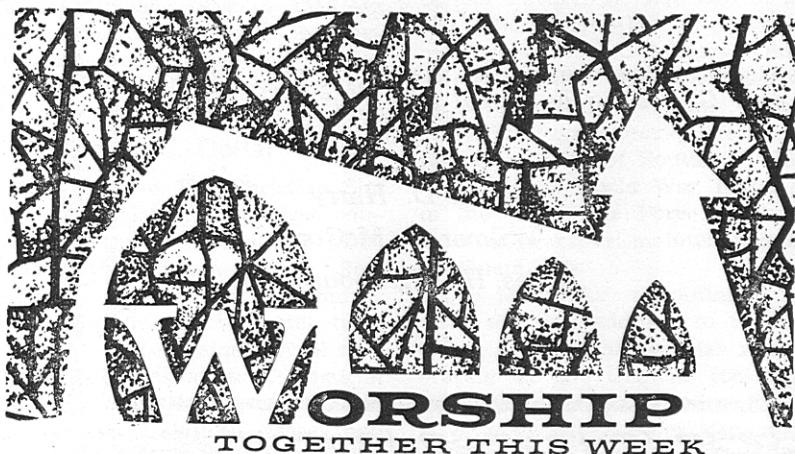
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Bliss, assistant to the executive vice-president of the American Board, presided at the dinner. Speakers included the Rev. Dr. Alford Carleton, the board's executive vice-president; the Rev. Albert C. Ronander, assistant to the secretary of the CC General Council; Dr. Fred Field Goodsell, former American Board executive vice-president; Harold B. Belcher, treasurer of the Missions Council; the Rev. David H. Sandstrom, associate minister of the Missions Council.

Photo shows Dr. Goodsell, Miss Cushing, Mr. Ronander, Dr. Carleton.

Rev. Melvin Dollar

The Mission Village Church, San Diego, California, with a goal of \$25,000 for the first unit of their church plant, secured in pledges on October 9 commitments for \$27,795, with several follow up calls yet to make, which may well bring the fund to the \$30,000 figure.

The Rev. Melvin Dollar is the minister of the new church which hopes to begin construction this month and to have the first unit ready for occupancy by Easter.



People . . .

Blackwood Young People Engage In Busy Schedule

The Pilgrim Fellowship'ers of Blackwood Church had a very successful Work Day for Christ on November 5. Among the services performed were: shaking pecan trees, uprooting overgrown trees and shrubbery on lawns; raking leaves, waxing and mopping floors, and washing cars. Some even worked so late that they missed a church wedding early that evening. The ten workers were David and Bill Brackin, Creig Kennedy, Larry Rister, Ronnie Kirkland, Roger Faison, Betty Jane Pettis, Patricia Brackin, and the two Sewell sisters. Mrs. Rubye Hodges is the sponsor. At the day's end they were able to dedicate more than \$32.00.

The Blackwood Pilgrim Fellowship'ers were hosts to the Young People of the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association on November 12 and 13. Delegations came from Andalusia, First; Andalusia, Antioch; Tallassee, and Phenix City, United Churches. This rally of about 50 young people demonstrated a high degree of unity, enthusiasm, and seriousness of purpose through business, worship, discussion, and recreation. Wayne Graves of Andalusia is president; Mrs. Arthur Wallace and Mrs. Marrell Rhodes are the excellent sponsors. On Sunday morning the Blackwood Church was carried into the presence of God as these young people so effectively led the morning worship service, with Rev. Ralph Worley giving the message.

Minister's Convocation

The annual Fall Minister's Convocation was held on the campus of The Southern Union College November 15-17. More than 20 ministers were in attendance for at least part of the sessions.

The ministers were the first group to use the new addition to Kimball Hall. The new rooms and bathrooms in the addition are quite attractive and efficient.

Professor Carl J. Landes led a course in Church History, dealing with the histories of the E&R and CC Churches. Supt. Lightbourne led a course in Christian ethics.

The Spring Minister's Convocation will be held at the college May 9-11, 1961.

Churches . . .

Ga. - S. C. Women Hold Fellowship Meeting

The annual meeting of the Women's Fellowship of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference convened on October 13, 1960, with 13 churches represented.

The recommendations made by the Fellowship at the Retreat in Perry were unanimously accepted. These recommendations were:

Elect in 1961 for two (2) years, the president, 1st vice-president, and corresponding secretary (preferably from same section as the president). Elect in 1962 for one (1) year the recording secretary, vice-president, and treasurer. (Robert's Rules of Order does not include the "president-elect" as an officer).

In order to relieve the top-heavy organization we now have (which does not always function), we voted to set up the Six Departments of Work on a district basis, two (2) to each district, and in rotation in the same way that the Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship is organized. These chairmen will meet together with the Executive Committee to plan the work, but will promote on a state-wide basis.

The Nominating Committee, which was appointed to bring its report to the meeting, was unable to function. Therefore, it was suggested that the report be made and acted upon at the annual Retreat.

Mrs. Walter Williams, as the 1st vice-president (who is acting as president-elect), will represent the Conference Women's Fellowship at the Mid-Winter Meeting at Buck Hill Falls, in February.

Mrs. Askren reported a conference in Chicago with Miss Lillian Gregory, the National Women's Fellowship Executive Secretary. Miss Gregory expressed a willingness to come to Georgia to meet with the leaders in our Women's Fellowship in a training session. Our group indicated this would be a welcome service. Plans will be made to take advantage of this offer.

CHURCH CLERKS AND MINISTERS, PLEASE NOTE!!!

The annual year book reports for the local churches will be mailed immediately after Christmas. Please watch for them—complete them—and return a copy to the Southeast Convention Office by January 10th!

Events . . .

Keeping Christmas

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day and that is keeping Christmas. Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you — to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world — to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground — to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy — to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life — to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness — are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then, you can keep Christmas!

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children, to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old, to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough — to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts — to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you — to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you. Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then, you will keep Christmas!

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death — and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then, you can keep Christmas. And if you can keep it for a day, why not always? But, you can never keep it alone!

Henry Van Dyke

Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Lightbourne Jr. and family spent the Thanksgiving holidays in Southern Pines, N. C., visiting Mrs. Lightbourne's aunt, Mrs. Ernest Morell.

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Superintendent's Corner

Congregational Christian churches all over the country are engaged in the process of voting on the Constitution of the United Church of Christ. If 2/3rds of the CC Churches voting and 2/3rds of the Evangelical and Reformed Church Synods vote approval of the constitution, it will be declared in force by the General Synod meeting in July of next summer.

I would urge each of our churches in the Southeast Convention to vote on this historic document. Moreover, as is well known by this time, I voted approval of the constitution as a delegate to the General Synod and would recommend to the churches that they vote in favor of it.

Local churches should keep in mind that this constitution is not for the local church as such. This constitution defines and regulates the General Synod and its immediate instrumentalities; it only describes and recommends procedures for the local churches, associations, conferences, and ministers.

Paragraph 21 of the constitution safeguards the rights of the local church: "The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action." Every local church can continue to manage its own affairs and own its own property.

By voting approval of the constitution we can ". . . express more fully our oneness in Christ; . . . make more effective our common witness to Him; and serve His Kingdom in the world."

Convention Churches Almost To CHEF Goal

Slowly but surely the churches of the Southeast Convention are reaching the goal of \$25,000 for the Christian Higher Education Fund Campaign. At the end of November \$23,561 had been pledged by the churches.

January 31, 1961, is the deadline for the reception of CHEF Declarations of Intention from churches which will be listed on the final CHEF Honor Roll. Every church is urged to take action now so that it may be included.

Andalusia, Antioch	250.
Andalusia, Coldwater	50.
Andalusia, First	200.
Andalusia, New Home	50.
Birmingham, Pilgrim	1,000.
Brantley, Indian Creek	100.
Brantley, Liberty	75.
East Tallassee, Cong'l. Chr.	400.
Garden City	20.
Headland, Blackwood	450.
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	300.
Lanett, Cong'l. Chr.	2,000.
Lanett, Huguley	200.
Langdale, Cong'l. Chr.	1,000.
Lineville, New Harmony	50.
Moulton, Jones Chapel	25.
Roanoke, Lowell	300.
Roanoke, New Hope	100.
Shawmut, Todd	60.
Steele, Mt. Lebanon	50.
Trinity, Caddo First	75.
Wadley, Christian	500.
Wedowee, Noon Day	300.
Baker, Pyron's Chapel	100.
Bonifay, New Effort	156.
Crestview, Dorcas	100.
Atlanta, Center	50.
Atlanta, Central	3,600.
Barnesville, Fredonia	250.
Braselton, Macedonia	50.
Buford, Duncan's Creek	50.
Demorest, Federated	400.
Douglas, First	100.
LaGrange, United	1,200.
Pearson, Union Hill	300.
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove	225.
Richland, First	25.
Evarts, Ky., First	450.
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	3,000.
Crossville, First	450.
Daisy, First	450.
Deer Lodge	150.
Glen Mary	150.
Knoxville, First	3,000.
Nashville, Brookmeade	750.
Pleasant Hill, Community	900.
Robbins, Barton Chapel	100.

CHURCHES	VOTE
Andalusia, Antioch (Ala.)	Yes
Bristol, Antioch (Ga.)	No
Demorest, Federated (Ga.)	Yes
East Tallassee C. C. (Ala.)	Yes
Garden City C. C. (Ala.)	Yes
LaGrange, United (Ga.)	Yes
Meansville, First (Ga.)	Yes
Pearson, Union Hill (Ga.)	Yes
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove (Ga.)	Yes
Richland, First (Ga.)	Yes
Roanoke, Lowell (Ala.)	Yes
Steppeville, Mt. Grove (Ala.)	Yes
Wadley, Christian (Ala.)	Yes
Totals	Yes 12
	No 1
	13

Youth Week Observation Materials Now Available

The eighteenth annual National Youth Week will be observed from the last Sunday in January through the first Sunday in February, January 29 to February 5, 1961, using the theme, "Into All the World Together."

The program is sponsored through cooperating denominations by the United Christian Youth Movement, the Youth Division of the National Council of Churches of Christ.

To help local churches and communities plan programs and projects for the week, a Youth Week Project is available for \$1.00, from the P & D Dept., National Council of Churches, P. O. Box 301, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y. The packet includes, among other materials, a striking three-color poster, a 65-page study and action manual, printed orders of worship for the week, and a thought-provoking play for either local radio production or for concert reading.

Pilgrim Fellowships that plan to observe Youth Week are urged to order packets early so as to allow sufficient time for adequate planning.

CC Churches Voting In Favor Of Constitution

As of November 18th four hundred and eighty-seven Congregational Christian Churches had reported a favorable vote on the proposed constitution to the United Church office, 297 Park Ave. South, New York 10. Thirty-two churches reported a vote of "No".

Thirteen churches of the Southeast Convention have reported their vote to the national office. Twelve voted "Yes" and one voted "No".

Churches are urged to vote and report their action to the above address.

People...

Churches...

Events...

HERE AND THERE

Homecoming services were held at the United Church, Columbus, Ga., on Sunday, November 13. Rev. Sanford Wood is the pastor. Supt. J. H. Lightbourne Jr. brought the morning message.

* * * *

Southeast Regional Meeting

The Southeast Regional Meeting of the Congregational Christian Churches will be held February 28-March 2, 1961, at Talladega College, Alabama. Representatives from the Florida Conference, Convention of the South, Southern Convention, and Southeast Convention will attend.

* * * *

Journey To Understanding

A tour with people who believe in the church will be conducted to the Near East, April 11-May 19, 1961, by Mrs. Mary Ann Williams, Box 1206, Lake Worth, Florida. Mrs. Williams is the immediate past president of the Women's Fellowship of the International Congregational Christian Council. Persons interested in the tour are invited to contact her.

* * * *

Rev. Warren Blankenhorn

A Service of Installation was held at the Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church, Phenix City, Ala., on Sunday, November 6th, for the Rev. Warren Blankenhorn. Homecoming was also observed. Dean A. R. Van Cleave delivered the installation sermon and Supt. J. H. Lightbourne Jr. the homecoming sermon.

* * * *

Rev. W. Raymond Berry

The Rev. W. Raymond Berry has resigned as minister of the United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange, to become the first resident and permanent minister of the United Church (CC and Evangelical and Re-formed) of Huntsville, Alabama.

The Rev. and Mrs. Berry and their young daughter, Bonita Linda, will move to Huntsville the end of December.

At the present time the Rev. Claude W. Warren is serving as interim pastor of the Huntsville Church. This is a new church project and is jointly sponsored by the South Indiana Synod (E&R) and the Southeast Convention.

At the present time Mr. Berry is the moderator of the Southeast Convention. Mrs. Berry is the chairman of the con-

Christmas Fund for the VETERANS of the CROSS



"I will lift up mine eyes"

vention Christian Education Committee.

* * * *

Mr. Rayburn Waller

A Service of Licensure was held at the First Congregational Christian Church, Phenix City, Ala., on Sunday afternoon, November 6th, for Mr. Ray-

burn Waller, a lay member of the church.

The East Alabama Association voted to grant Mr. Waller a license to preach. The Rev. Warner D. Noles, pastor of the church, conducted the service. Rev. W. Raymond Berry, moderator of the convention, preached the sermon.

Council For Christian Social Action Announces Two New Staff Appointments

The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ announces the appointment of two staff members, to assume their positions in February and July of 1961 respectively.

They are Miss Elizabeth Johns of New York City, who succeeds Mrs. Alexander J. Grant as Publications Secretary and Editor of SOCIAL ACTION magazine, and Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks of Wooster, Ohio, who will be the Council's representative in the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches.

Miss Johns, a native of Factoryville, Pennsylvania, received her undergraduate training at Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to earning a master's degree in Sociology from Mt. Holyoke, she has studied at Harvard University, New York School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Union Theological Seminary, and Yale Divinity School in fields of Sociology, Education and Psychology, Child Welfare, Student Work and Christian Ethics. She was engaged in social welfare in Wilmington, Delaware and in Baltimore. From 1939 to 1941 she taught Sociology at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Since then she has held positions with the YWCA, both in the Student Movement and in the Foreign Division. She led YM-YWCA seminars in Europe and spent two years with the YWCA's of Burma and Ceylon, 1954 to 1956. In addition to numerous articles in various magazines, she contributed a chapter in the book "College Teaching and

Rev. C. C. Dollar

A recent issue of The Christian Sun reports the completion of the new educational building of the Holland (Va.) Congregational Christian Church. Rev. Carl Dollar is the pastor of the church.

The building is of the motel type, 148 x 37 feet, and contains several new Sunday School classrooms. A financial campaign was held last year to raise monies for the building. More than enough was pledged to cover the building costs.

Christian Values" by Dr. Paul Limbert.

Miss Johns will begin her work with the CCSA in the New York office, effective February 1, 1961.

Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks will join the Council staff July 1, 1961, in a new position which represents a new venture in denominational-interdenominational cooperation. As Washington Secretary for the Council for Christian Social Action he will be stationed in the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches, with responsibility for providing information to the churches, maintaining liaison with their public interest agencies and rendering such special services as the Executive Director of the NCC Washington Office and the CCSA might require.

Dr. Maddocks was born in Millinocket, Maine. He received his bachelor's degree at Marshall College, West Virginia, his master's degree at Boston University, and his PhD at Ohio State University. He has taught at various institutions — the University of Massachusetts, Ohio State University, Ricker College, and since 1955 has been Assistant Professor at the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

Originally a Congregationalist, since coming to Ohio, Dr. Maddocks has been a member of Trinity United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed) and has served as a Church School teacher, as chairman of the social action committee, as president and member of the Consistory, and as a delegate to the Fifth World Order Study Conference in Cleveland, November, 1958. He is a member of the Social Action Committee of Southeast Ohio Synod. During World War II he served in the Army Air Force and was the chief of a radar maintenance section on Guam.

Dr. Maddocks' appointment represents the first addition to the staff of either of the two agencies now cooperating in the Council for Christian Social Action for a period of five years. It is hoped that other denominations will also find ways of strengthening the Washington Office.

Churches Will Support Annual Christmas Fund

For more than fifty years our Congregational Christian Churches have paid tribute to retired ministers and their widows through the Christmas Fund.

This Fund has such natural appeal that it gains momentum every year. Through it small and inadequate pensions are supplemented for aged veterans stricken in time of crisis and special need. Inflation, medical expenses, the death of a life partner — all these things and many more can mean serious hardship. Special grants, plus the special Christmas check, make it possible to ease the burden.

In 1959, churches and individuals in forty-three states, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, Canada and Mexico responded with gifts totaling over \$160,000. From this 752 Christmas checks to ministers and widows were sent out. A balance went into the Emergency Fund and through the years has made possible needed operations; cataracts removed, glasses purchased, hearing aids provided, Braille taught to one blind minister and training to a young widow to make her self-supporting.

(Several ministers and their families, as well as the widows of ministers, in the Southeast Convention were aided during the year both by the Christmas Fund and the Emergency Fund. Our churches are strongly urged to receive special offerings for THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS.)

Gifts to the Christmas Fund do not receive regular apportionment credit, but are carried in "Other Gifts, Congregational Christian". Gifts received by January 6, 1961, will be credited in 1960.

This year you and your church will want to participate in this Fund. See the poster in your church. Send contributions to the Christmas Fund, Board of Home Missions, 287 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y. Make checks payable to The Christmas Fund.

Dr. Thomas Anderson, pastor of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, spoke at the special Thanksgiving Service at United Church, LaGrange, Ga., on Wednesday night, November 23.